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Health Commissioner
Board of Health
City of Cincinnati

NEWS RELEASE

Date: September 20, 2007
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CINCINNATI HEALTH DEPARTMENT CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM AWARDED \$ 3 MILLION HUD GRANT

(Cincinnati) The Cincinnati Health Department (CHD) was awarded a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The grant gives CHD the opportunity to continue to provide services to prevent childhood lead poisoning and create lead safe housing.

“I want to thank the Federal Government for being a partner in our efforts to fight lead poisoning and keep our children safe and healthy. Lead paint is a large public health problem, and we are going to need assistance from many different partners in order to fully address the problem,” said Mayor Mark Mallory.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has stated that lead poisoning is the number one environmental health threat for children, and is entirely preventable. Cincinnati is the first in the nation to have dropped the concern levels to 5 to 9 µg/dL (micrograms per deciliter) in September 2006.

As a whole the target neighborhoods:

- ☐ Encompass all of the Cincinnati Empowerment Zone
- ☐ Encompass all of the concentrated city services
- ☐ Are nearly 50% of the City's total population and 44% of City's dwelling units
- ☐ Exceed the City average of residential units built before 1940 by 5% (44%)
- ☐ Have 5% more households below 50% of the median income than the City as a whole
- ☐ Have 4% more household below 80% of the median income than the City as a whole

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Testing and screening of our children is imperative. CHD offers those children without health insurance or access to medical facilities. Out of 331,285 population in the City of Cincinnati, 28,424 are children under the age of 6 years. 7,804 children were screened for lead poisoning in 2005.

“This grant will move our city toward the goal of elimination of lead poisoning by the year 2010. The expected results from these resources will lead to a public health breakthrough for Cincinnatians,” said Dr. Noble Maseru, Health Commissioner.

With existing Community Development Block Grant funds, the \$3 million grant CHD’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program will provide program activities that include:

- ❑ Track all BLL cases above 10 µ/dL or above for case management
- ❑ Track all BLL cases between 5-9 µ/dL for case management, outreach and education
- ❑ Conduct full risk assessment of a child’s dwelling at a confirmed EBLL of 10 µ/dL or greater and issue order to properties with lead hazards
- ❑ Conduct pre-prosecution hearing and prosecution of non-compliant property owners with Law Department as partners
- ❑ Blood Lead screenings
- ❑ Lead-safe renovator training and mitigation courses
- ❑ Abatement of units
- ❑ HEPA Vacuum Loan Program
- ❑ Educating nurses at the college of Nursing about lead hazards and impact on children below six years of age
- ❑ WIC clients
- ❑ Training nurses in the maternity wards of hospital about lead hazards
- ❑ Educating the Hispanic population
- ❑ Educating new moms in hospitals about lead hazards and mitigation
- ❑ Educating in schools – public health nurses and CLPP risk assessors
- ❑ Outreach and education

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